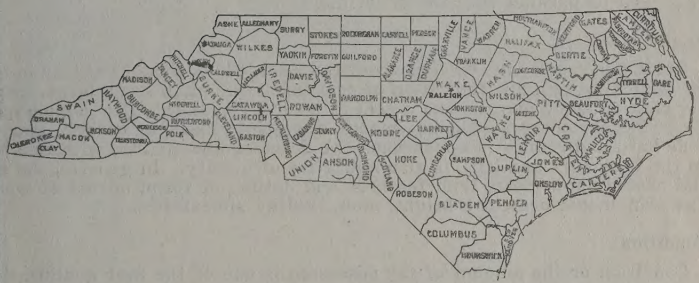
Score Card For Mutton Sheep

BY R. S. CURTIS



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SCORE CARD FOR MUTTON SHEEP

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DESCRIPTION OF THE MUTTON SHEEP

General Appearance:

The mutton type of sheep is analogous in form to the beef steer or the fa hog. The one chief difference in judging the sheep from that of other meat producing animals is in the wool, which will be considered later. The neare the form of the mutton sheep approaches the established meat-producin type, the more valuable it is to the butcher. The same characteristics shoul be considered, therefore, as in other animals. The form should be squar compact, and the animal low set. The body should be long, broad and deep This should be the result of long, well-sprung ribs, closely spaced, thus giv ing width, depth, length and compactness of form. The head should b broad and full, the neck short and compact, blending smoothly into th shoulder. The shoulders should be broad, smooth over the top and full an compact over the sides. In the region of the heart the form should be fu and the chest deep. The back should be straight, carry out well to the tai head, and be parallel with the underline.

Quality:

Quality is usually in evidence about the head, which should be clear in out line and free from any indication of coarseness. A plain head, large, droop ing ears, a heavy muzzle, and a coarse, open fleece show objectionable qua ity. The shoulders should be smooth, the joints clean in outline, and th bone hard and refined in appearance. A fleece of fine quality, with fine hai on the face, ears and legs, is also indicative of quality. In general, the an mal should show clean, trim features and outline of form, devoid of wast The skin should present a bright, pink, healthy appearance.

Condition:

Condition or the amount of fat possessed is one of the first qualification noticed by the buyer of fat stock for market purposes. Sheep should b highly fitted for the market, although that should never be overdone, as soft, blubbery carcass is inferior from the butcher's standpoint. When in a overdone condition, there is an accumulation of soft fat, either in the for flank, at the tail-head, on the ribs, or around the loin. A sheep in prime con dition for the butcher is smooth, firm, and uniform in fat covering. Judge usually test the condition by grasping the animal with one hand over th region of the back, loin and ribs or at the dock. A full, firm, even conditio of these parts is indicative of proper finish.

Fleece Characteristics:

In judging the fleece, it is necessary to take into consideration the type o sheep. The fine wool breeds produce wool comparatively short and fine i quality. The crimp is close and the yolk excessive. The medium wool o mutton breeds produce wool of average length and fineness. The long-woo breeds produce a long and rather open fleece, which hangs in spirals o ringlets.

The quality of the fleece is determined by the fineness of the fibre, th closeness of the crimp and softness or pliability of it. A good fleece sound, indicating no weak spots in the wool; clean, that is, free from foreig matter, dirt, straw, or chaff; and dense, indicating closeness of fibre. Th crimp should be close. The wool should possess a bright, lustrous appea ance, and cover the sheep uniformly over the head, body and legs, accordin to the breed in question.

Breeding Capacity:

In judging sheep for breeding purposes, there should be every indication of capacity or roominess in the animal such as would enable them to nourish and give birth to strong, vigorous young. This is shown primarily by the amount of constitution possessed. The eyes should be large, bright and clear, and the muzzle broad and the nostrils large. The chest should be broad and deep. There should be a general indication of thrift and vigor which would enable the animal to breed satisfactorily over a period of years.

1. Southdown Sheep. A thick-fleshed, compact breed, producing mutton of extra fine quality and flavor.

2. Shropshire Sheep, showing how to hold sheep properly while being judged in the show ring. In holding or handling sheep the fingers should never be inserted individually in the wool. They should be kept close together.

SCORE CARD

MUTTON SHEEP F

SCALE OF POINTS	Standard Score	Points De	
		Student's Score	
1. Age			
GENERAL APPEARANCE—38 per cent.			
2. **Weight**, score according to age	8		
3. **Form**, long, level, deep, broad, low set, stylish	10		
4. **Quality**, clean bone; silky hair; fine pink skin; light in offal, yielding high percentage of meat	10		
5. **Condition**, deep, even covering of firm flesh, especially in regions of valuable cuts. Points indicating ripeness are thick dock, back thickly covered with flesh, thick neck, full purse, full flank, plump breast	10		
HEAD AND NECK—7 per cent.			
6. **Muzzle**, fine; mouth large; lips thin; nostrils large and open	1		
7. **Eyes**, large, clear, placid	1		
8. **Face**, short; features clean-cut	1		
9. **Forehead**, broad, full	1		
10. **Ears**, fine, alert	1		
11. **Neck**, thick, short, free from folds	2		
FOREQUARTERS—7 per cent.			
12. **Shoulders**, covered with flesh, compact on top, snug	5		
13. **Brisket**, neat, proportionate; breast wide	1		
14. **Legs**, straight, short, wide apart, strong; forearm full; shank smooth, fine	1		
BODY—20 per cent.			
15. **Chest**, wide, deep, full	4		
16. **Ribs**, well sprung, long, close	4		
17. **Back**, broad, straight, long, thickly fleshed	6		
18. **Loin**, thick, broad, long	6		
HINDQUARTERS—16 per cent.			
19. **Hips**, far apart, level, smooth	2		
20. **Rump**, long, level, wide to tail-head	4		
21. **Thighs**, full, deep, wide	4		
22. **Twist**, plump, deep	5		
23. **Legs**, straight, short, strong; shank fine, smooth	1		
WOOL—12 per cent.			
24. **Quantity**, long, dense, even	4		
25. **Quality**, fine, pure; crimp close, regular, even	4		
26. **Condition**, bright, sound, clean, soft, light	4		
Total	100		

Class No. **Student No.**

Name

Address